

R E M A R K S

Claims 8, 10 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-7 and 14-22 are cancelled. Claims 9, 11 and 13 stand as previously presented.

5 Claims 8-13 were considered in the Office Action.

Claims 8, 10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Todokoro et al., U.S. Patent 4,574,206 (hereinafter Todokoro). Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over  
10 Todokoro.

The currently pending independent claims (8, 10 and 12) recite the use of a resistive ladder to provide or adjust a reference voltage. None of the cited references disclose or suggest the use of a resistive ladder to adjust a reference  
15 voltage for use in determining the state of a digital input signal.

The Applicants have filed concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement citing Carobolante, U.S. Patent 5,376,834, which was cited by the Examiner in a  
20 continuation application of the present application. However, Applicants do not believe that a suggestion or motivation to combine Carobolante with the cited prior art references exists.

Dependent claims 9, 11 and 13 ultimately depend upon the  
25 independent claims which are allowable over the cited art as discussed above. These dependent claims are likewise in condition for allowance at least because they depend on an allowable independent claim. However, dependent claims 9, 11 and 13 are independently allowable at least in that they  
30 recite particular features which, when combined with the elements of the base independent claims, are not disclosed or

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suggested in the cited references.

The Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are clear and definite and are not anticipated by or obvious over the cited references and respectfully request the timely  
5 issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Dated: 1/8/01

Respectfully submitted,  
KLAAS, LAW, O'MEARA & MALKIN, P.C.

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